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WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT 1953

- Chairman of the Council - Councillor J.P.Prangnell, J.P.,
- Chairman of Public Health Committee - Councillor J.B.Barton
Councillor Miss M.A.Powell (Vice-Chairman)
- Members of Public Health Committee - Councillors J.B.Barton, K.J.Baldwin, F.T.S.Chant, E.W.Cooper, G.H.G.Foreman, E.Grummy, W.C.Harvey, Lt.Col.A.A.Hawkes, H.Johnston, G.J.Johnson, W.J.King, R.S.Maflin, J.T.Martin, J.P.Prangnell, C.M.Robinson, G.Vickery, Miss M.A.Powell, Mrs.E.J.Phillips.
- Staff of Public Health Department - F.W.I.Whitehouse, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Chief Sanitary Inspector.
- G.W.Carr, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector.
- P.K.Marsh, General Assistant
- Miss V.Slingsbury Clerk
- Clerk of the Council and Chief Financial Officer F.Tomlinson, F.I.M.T.A., A.R.V.A.,
- Surveyor and Water Engineer G.S.Dunkin, B.Sc(Eng), A.M.I.C.E.,

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

GATE LODGE,

THE CASTLE,

WHITSTABLE.

AUGUST 1954.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Whitstable Urban
District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth Annual Report of
the work carried out during the year 1953.

G E N E R A L

Total number of inspections made was 7635 made up as
follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Milk Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling.	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Food Preparing Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A) 1st Visit	...	...	...	...	...	...	421
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A.) Re-visit.	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
Dwellinghouses (Housing Act)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,794
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations..	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	409
Drains Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	511
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Keeping of Animals..	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Heating Appliances..	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

	(Council Premises ...	...	...	22
Rodent Control	(Dwelling Houses ...	...	...	204
	(Agricultural Premises ...	...	...	15
	(Business Premises...	...	...	87
Port Health	...	...	...	58
Petroleum	...	...	...	62
Infectious Diseases.	...	...	...	67
Public Conveniences.	...	...	...	33
Factories Act	...	...	...	98
Shops Acts	...	...	...	110
Water Supplies	...	...	...	70
Unsound Food	...	...	...	185
Bedding & Disinfection	...	...	...	37
Refuse Collection and Disposal..	...	...	...	408
Civil Defence	...	...	...	122
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	215

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	31
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	...	...	12
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Floors ventilated...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	41
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	90
Sinks repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brickwork repaired..	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fireplaces repaired and renewed.	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drains relaid or repaired.	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	45
W.C's repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	...	...	44
W.C's provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ceiling and wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rising and/or penetrating damp..	...	...	...	...	...	52
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	40

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

- (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 3,215
(Includes external inspections carried out in connection with housing survey)

2.	(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1)) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations..	...	3
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	4
	(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	3
	(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	736
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-		
		Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..	... ..	114
		Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-		
	A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936....	... ..	NIL
	B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-		
	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	20
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-		
	(a)	By owners..	... ..	17
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners..	... ..	NIL
	C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-		
3.	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	2

	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	NIL
D.		Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	... ..	NIL
4.		Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-		
(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	5
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein.	...	8
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein..	...	35
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	NIL
(c)		Number of cases of overcrowding relieved..		5
(d)		Number of persons concerned in such cases.		20
(e)		Number of new cases of overcrowding.	...	2

NEW HOUSES DURING 1953

(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses on plans submitted during the year	... ..	145
(b)	Total number of houses erected during 1953	...	145
(c)	Houses erected by Local Authority..	... ..	47
(d)	Houses erected by other persons	... ..	98

INSPECTION OF FOOD

MEAT SUPPLIES

No animals intended for sale for human consumption were slaughtered in the area during the year, the majority of home killed meat being received from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Canterbury. This slaughterhouse was opened in the early part of the year, thus making possible the transference of slaughtering from the South Eastern London area. The premises and equipment have been constructed for line dressing and provide facilities for a high standard of hygiene and for adequate meat inspection.

To meet the convenience of the majority of the butchers, bulk supplies were received and collected from a centrally situated slaughterhouse in the town. Regular visits were made to ensure compliance with the Meat Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act.

UN SOUND FOOD

The following table shows the amount of unsound food voluntarily surrendered during the year and for which condemnation certificates were issued:-

				lbs
Meat	...	...	...	862
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	427
Poultry...	...	...	...	91
Fish	...	...	...	147
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	19
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	77
Cheese	...	...	...	55
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	504
Jam	...	...	...	33
Eggs	...	...	...	41
Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	<u>443</u>
				2,699

In addition to the above, 16,000 lbs of foodstuffs were deemed to be unfit for human consumption owing to same having been contaminated during the flooding of the town.

FOOD HYGIENE

Close supervision was maintained of all the various food shops and food preparing premises, having particular regard to the requirements of the Council's Clean Food Byelaws, 546 visits being made in this connection.

Routine inspections usually revealed only minor instances of bad methods and insufficient cleanliness. These were, in the majority of cases, due to ignorance or an oversight by the persons concerned, and were remedied by a few words of advice at the time of visit. In no instance was it necessary to institute legal proceedings.

MILK SUPPLIES

There were registered in the area four dairies and eleven distributors of milk. Four dealers bottling licences, two supplementary licences for pasteurised milk, and one supplementary licence for tuberculin tested milk were issued.

The results of the samples taken, details of which are given below, denote that a high standard of cleanliness was maintained:-

Twenty-five samples of Tuberculin Tested bottled milk, of which twenty-four passed the test.

Seven samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) bottled milk, all of which passed the test.

Five samples of Pasteurised bottled milk, all of which passed the test.

Two samples of Undesignated bottled milk were of a satisfactory nature.

Further improvements were carried out during the year, resulting in all dairies being equipped with modern bottle washing machines. Extension of premises has also taken place, and an additional dairy changed over to the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk.

Adequate refrigeration facilities are provided at all the dairies, thus ensuring the efficiency of keeping quality, particularly during the summer.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered and actively engaged in the manufacture and sale of ice cream was five. The number of premises registered for the sale only of ice cream was eighty-seven, of which number twenty-six sell pre-packed ice cream. Regular inspections of the premises, equipment and records of the manufacturers were maintained to ensure that the ice cream was produced under satisfactory conditions.

Traders generally prefer to purchase direct from wholesalers and the larger manufacturers rather than manufacture their own ice cream, which requires a considerable amount of time and care to maintain a high standard.

Details of the twenty-six samples taken are as follows, which are reasonably satisfactory, particularly when one considers that of the twenty-two samples taken in 1947 when the Regulations came into force, ten were placed in Grade 4.

Grade 1 - Fifteen samples
Grade 2 - Ten samples
Grade 3 - Nil
Grade 4 - One sample

In no case were any disease producing organisms found.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD HAWKERS

During the year three persons were registered as food hawkers under the Whitstable U.D.C. Act of 1948, and two premises were registered in connection with storage accommodation. The total number of registrations were twenty-eight persons and eleven premises.

Registrations are now issued on an annual basis only, and subject to the conditions recommended by the Catering Trade Working Party where same are applicable.

SHOPS ACTS

The administration of the Shops Acts is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors under powers delegated to this authority by the County Council. A separate report has already been made in this connection.

WATER SUPPLIES

Nineteen samples of drinking water were taken from piped supplies for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

Four samples were taken of well water, one of which proved unsatisfactory. Subsequent pumping out and cleansing of the defective well resulted in a satisfactory supply being obtained.

As a result of informal action the use of three wells was discontinued and the properties were connected to the mains supply.

The mains supply was made available to twelve houses which previously relied on rain water.

The water supply for the district is obtained from the Canterbury Water Company and the Mid-Kent Water Company.

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The latter supplying the Yorkletts area and the former the remainder of the district.

99.5% of all dwellings are on the mains supply.

SWIMMING BATH

Close supervision was maintained of the one private swimming bath in the district, and samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis to test the efficiency of the cleansing treatment that was carried out.

FACTORIES ACTS

The following statistics relate to the operation of the Factories Acts:-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1 - INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	13	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority..	91	83	9	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	113	98	10	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ...	1	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	5	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	11	-	-	-

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Three licences were issued by the Council in respect of the sale of pet animals.

Licence conditions were being complied with, which were based on recommendations made by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

RODENT CONTROL

The following statistics denote the amount of work carried out by this department during the year:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including business premises)	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Total No. of properties in Local Authority's District	18	6305	27	1128	7478
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. during 1953 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise	(a) - (b) 5	113 106	7 11	8 165	128 287
3. No. of properties inspected (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by rats	Major 3 Minor -	1 97	- 2	- 6	4 105
4. No. of properties inspected (see Section 2) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	-	24	-	10	34
5. No. of infested properties (see Sections 3 and 4) treated by L.A.	3	122	2	17	144
6. No. of notices served under Section 4:					
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural Works (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	1	1
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of a notice under S.4.	-	-	-	-	-
8. No. of "block" control schemes carried out:			16		

Two Maintenance Treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year with the following results:-

Test Baiting Treatment - 29th April 1953.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	29
Number of manholes showing 'takes'	...		5

No.1. Maintenance Treatment - 5th,6th,7th,8th May 1953.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	88
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	...	...	14
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days	...		9

No.2. Maintenance Treatment - 13th,14th,15th October 1953.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	72
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	...	...	10
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days	...		2

No full time operator is employed for the purpose of rodent control, the work being carried out by Mr.P.Marsh, General Assistant, with occasional additional labour from the Surveyor's Department when the sewers are treated.

PEST CONTROL

The usual spraying of ponds and dykes was carried out during the summer to mitigate the mosquito nuisance.

Ninety verminous rooms were disinfested and several wasps nests were rendered innocuous.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

One factory only is registered in connection with the use of rag flock for the manufacture of new articles, and there are no premises where rag flock is manufactured.

A sample of woollen felt was taken for analysis, and was reported to be satisfactory.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The Department is responsible for the administration of these enactments, thirty-three licences being issued for the year under review. Visits were made to ensure that

licence conditions were complied with, and all licensees were supplied with notices incorporating these conditions which are required to be posted on the premises.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly collection of domestic refuse continued to be carried out. Two vehicles, each of 12 cu.yds. capacity, are employed for the purpose, manned by a staff of two drivers and four loaders. A third vehicle was used as a standby and for special salvage collections.

Collection of trade refuse was also carried out, the frequency of which varied with the type of refuse. In the main this was collected concurrently with domestic refuse to keep charges to a minimum.

A separate collection of wastepaper was maintained and was chiefly carried out whilst dealing with the domestic refuse, a trailer being attached to one freighter and a built-in compartment in the second. A special once weekly collection was made from the majority of business premises.

Collection of refuse is much facilitated by byelaws adopted by the Council which require occupiers of premises to place their bins conveniently accessible from the roadway. In certain instances, owing to infirmity or ill-health, individual collections are made.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse disposal was carried out at the Council's Tip at Yorkletts, and as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations.

A considerable improvement was effected as a result of the purchase by the Council of a calf-dozer which was put into use halfway through the year. It was engaged initially on levelling and covering with soil approximately 2 acres of land which will ultimately revert back to agricultural use.

Contractors are encouraged to deposit their surplus soil at the Tip, and the freeing of building restrictions resulted in a useful amount of soil becoming available for sealing purposes.

The 'picking rights' of salvageable material, other than wastepaper, at the Tip face are let off on an annual basis to a private contractor.

The amount of wastepaper salvaged during the year was 137 tons 5 cwts. 3 qrs.

The income derived from salvage operations was as follows:-

		£.	s.	d.
Amount received for salvage of materials from Tip (other than wastepaper)	...	120.	10.	0.
Wastepaper	...	919.	13.	6.
		£1,040.	3.	6.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Public Mortuary is situated in Island Wall, in connection with which the following bodies were received:-

	Males	Females
Number of bodies admitted:-		
Resident	12	8
Non-Resident..	-	1
	12	9
Number of bodies admitted for Post Mortem examinations	...	20
Number of Inquests	...	5

CAUSES OF DEATH

Natural Causes	...	17
Accident	...	1
Suicide	...	2
Open Verdict	...	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

A total number of 130 rooms were disinfected during the year.

The amount realized by the Council for disinfection measures which were carried out on a rechargeable basis was £29. 6. 1.

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The following articles were disinfected:-

Mattresses	105
Pillows	308
Bolsters	15
Blankets	...	...	...	59
Sheets	...	...	...	28
Quilts	...	...	...	16
Cushions	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
				545
				<u>=====</u>

The Council possesses its own steam disinfecting plant which consists of a vertical cross tube boiler and oval jacketed disinfector. This has now been in use for a considerable time, and certain welding repairs were carried out to comply with the requirements of the Council's Insurers.

CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of licensed camping sites in the area was fifteen, providing accommodation for 1,162 dwellings and comprising 61 acres.

All licences were issued on an annual basis, and were subject to various public health conditions, one of which was to restrict camping to the summer months only.

The camps were well conducted during the season and Proprietors always proved co-operative. It is unfortunate that a large percentage of camps are on cesspool drainage, as improvements in hygiene mean additional emptyings with consequent strain on the emptying service.

CIVIL DEFENCE

The Welfare side of Civil Defence falls to be dealt with by the Health Department, the Sanitary Inspector having been appointed Head of the Welfare Section.

Much progress was made in the training of volunteers, and several members took specialised training courses.

FLOOD EMERGENCY

The flooding from the sea that occurred in the early part of the year presented many public health problems. General precautionary measures taken included the repeated sampling of the town's water supply and requests to the public to boil all water before drinking. In no case was there found to be contamination, and daily tests denoted the efficiency of sterilization measures.

A considerable amount of foodstuffs was contaminated, and all affected food shops were visited as soon as practicable. A total of 16,000 lbs of foodstuffs was deemed to be unfit for human consumption. To enable fresh supplies to enter the shops without delay all contaminated foodstuffs were conveyed to the Cleansing Station, from whence a large proportion was despatched to various manufacturers for salvage purposes.

Individual inspections were made of every dwelling house in the affected areas, and in some 800 houses sections of floorboards were removed and the whole of the floor area treated with disinfectant solution.

Close liaison was maintained during the period with the various voluntary organisations and Civil Defence workers, particularly in regard to the services of the Welfare Section of Civil Defence, which in co-operation with other voluntary helpers and organisations, opened up rest centres and arranged emergency feeding.

C O N C L U S I O N

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and consideration, and my thanks are due to the Medical Officer of Health for his help and advice, to my staff for their loyal assistance, and for the co-operation always extended by officials of other departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.I. WHITEHOUSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

